

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A technique for performing clear operations in a region having a subregion. Responsive to a clear command: a current clear count for the region is left unchanged; a predetermined value is written into the pixels of the subregion; and the current clear count is written into pixel clear counts of the subregion. Prior to creating the subregion, clear commands may be handled according to a conventional fast clear technique. After creating the subregion and during the life of the subregion, clear commands may be handled according to the inventive technique. After the subregion is discontinued, clear commands may once again be handled according to the conventional technique. The inventive technique may be employed optionally depending on the percentage of the region's area occupied by the subregion.